

and that every single hop merchant was in sympathy with that meeting there that day, and he added that the brewers were also practically unanimously with them in that matter. In speaking of the great unfairness of the present system, he said it was all shown in the borough that 2,000 to 2,500 hops had been imported during the last season worth about £200,000 or £250,000 out of the English hop trade's pocket. (Shame.) Other speakers included Mr. B. L. Boorman (a prominent Radical), Mr. Oscar Gridlev, Mr. E. Le May, and Mr. G. Mount. The resolution was enthusiastically carried. "Rule Britannia" and the National Anthem being subsequently sung.

MIDLAND PROTEST.
An indignation meeting of the Hereford and Worcester Hop Growers Association was held at Worcester yesterday afternoon, against what was described as the dumping of an enormous quantity of American hop which are due to arrive in this country in a few days, and it was resolved to call the attention of the Government to the matter as an argument against the free trade. It was stated that American hops are being offered at 18s. 6d. to 20s. per cwt.

L.C.C. ESTIMATES.
MUNICIPAL REFORMERS SAVE
\$1,500,000.

The Finance Committee of the L.C.C. have prepared a report submitting estimates of capital expenditure for the financial year 1908-9. The course of their report the committee say:—

Experience has shown that the estimates of capital expenditure framed by the committees in past years have variably proved to be much in excess the actual requirements. We have from time to time made representations

large expenditure the estimates of the past three or four years have approximated more closely to the actual amount. It is, of course, not possible to avoid difficulty in calculating the rate of expenditure upon large works of construction or improvement, and many CONTINGENCIES MAY ARISE tending to delay the progress of the works, but the estimates should, nevertheless, be made by considering such contingencies in providing the estimates put forward by the various committees. It appeared to the committee that the estimates of those whose estimates were likely to prove to be in excess of the probable amount of their expenditure, having regard to the general conditions of the country, were unjustified, and we have accordingly

mittees, with the result that they have consented to the reduction of their expenditures by substantial sums. We have found it possible further to reduce expenditures in detail, but, judging by experience of the past, we do not think that the aggregate of these expenditures in the year 1909-10 will be the total of the estimates as now submitted. The total of the estimates for the year 1909-10 is \$1,344,000 less expenditures, which we now ask Council to approve is, excluding general contingency provisions, \$1,515,000 less than the total estimate for 1907-8.

0.	SCOTLAND, N.	Strong or high moderate winds from between south-w and west, equal some rain, moderate temperature.
1.	SCOTLAND, E.	South - westerly westerly winds from in places. changeable, some showers mild or moderate temperature.
2.	ENGLAND, N.E.	Same as No. 3.
3.	ENGLAND, E.	Same as No. 2.
4.	MIDLAND COUNTIES.	Wind backing south-west and increasing somewhat, mostly fair, but settled, some showers.
5.	ENGLAND, S. & (London)	

6.	SCOTLAND, W.	Same as No. 5 and
7.	ENGLAND, N.	South westerly
	N.W. and N.	westerly winds from
	Wales	the strong to the
		ate; changed
8.	ENGLAND, S.	some showers; u
	S.W. and S.	change temperat
	Wales	South westerly
		westerly or north
9.	IRELAND, N.	westerly win
		strong or or ha
		moderate; chan
10.	IRELAND, S.	able, occasional r
		hail locally; tem
		ature changing ir
		ularly.
		South westerly

[illegible]

OUR OMNIBUS.

COMMENTS BY NOTABLE PASSENGERS.

THE CONDUCTOR.



The National Conference on Infant Mortality, which has been sitting this week under the chairmanship of the Mayor of Westminster, should give a useful impetus to the Children Bill, at present under the consideration of the House of Commons.

It is true, so a good deal further than the topics which have been under debate at Caxton Hall. It embraces the juvenile smoker, the tramp child, boys and girls in reformatory schools, and many things besides. Still, Caxton Hall and St. Stephen's have this in common, that they are trying to check the terrible suffering on the part of the young and the wastage of many young lives.

The facts with which the Conference has dealt are serious enough. There has been during the last half century a decline in the general mortality from 22 to a little over 18 per thousand. There is no corresponding decline in infant mortality. In some parts of the country, notably in London and Lancashire, it is on the increase. The causes of this disastrous state of affairs are various, among them being the large number of children born in one room tenements and the antagonistic influence of factory employment on motherhood. These are economic conditions which can only be remedied by degrees, and even so the remedies will take some finding.

But there is another cause which might surely be attacked, namely the ignorance of housekeeping in which so many young women are brought up. It cannot be entirely met by the institution of Trained Health Visitors, admirable though their work has been in many parts of the country. As Dr. Chadwick, of the Lancashire County Council, pointed out at the conference in a thoroughly practical speech, the mill girls of the north are fired out by their work and have no time to learn housekeeping. Those girls get married, and in many instances, bring children into the world without the smallest idea how to feed or take care of them. That is why the infant mortality in Lancashire is so heavy.

THE ACTOR.



It is the very irony of Fate, as applied to the drama, that just as the sudden flare set up against the Censorship of Plays has extinguished itself, a more serious warning fire has gone far, though luckily not far enough, to incinerate the great National Theatre in which, more than in any other, plays passing the test of the Official Examiner have been produced. Happily, though the stage, with its scenery, dressing rooms, and workshops, has been utterly burnt out, the auditorium is left practically uninjured, either by the conflagration or the hundreds of tons of water poured from fire brigade steamers on subduing the devouring flames.

This means that for all purposes affecting the public the vast house, with its outer walls intact, will, usually speaking, when restored to its normal working condition, show no trace whatever of the seriously destructive damage caused by the blaze. Such a result is a subject for congratulation, wholly due to the wise precaution, taken by the Drury Lane proprietors, prompted by the action of the London County Council, to establish the fire-proof curtain, completely shutting off the auditorium from the rest of the building. How rapid in their fierceness the flames actually were is shown by the fact that, seen by a policeman at 4.30 a.m., by 5.45 a.m. an hour and twelve minutes later, the stage and its appendages were a confused mass of twisted iron girders, charred timbers, dust, and ashes.

cook-pit, burned down in the reign of James I., when rebuilt was named the Phoenix. For this playhouse in 1692 Charles II. granted an exclusive Royal Patent, continued to this day, to Thomas Killigrew. His company was known as "The King's Servants," ten of whom, styled "Gentlemen of the Great Chamber," had each an annual allowance of 10 yards of scarlet cloth and lace. This theatre lasted on until 1809, when, while under the direction of Sheridan, it was consumed by the devouring element. It was of this fire that the story is recorded about the witty manager who, as he sat sipping his wine in the parlour of the Harp Tavern, opposite the burning house, replied to a boon companion who expressed surprise at his unconcern, "It's hard if a man can't enjoy himself at his own fire-side."

The third playhouse speedily rising from the ruins of the former one is the edifice now partially destroyed. The loss, variously estimated at from £40,000 to £70,000, is covered by policies in several insurance companies and at Lloyd's.

The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (Ltd.), has a capital of £125,000, of which £24,000 paid up has been repaid in dividends declared during the last nine years as follows, respectively, 20, 10, 15, 20, 10, 15, and 21 per cent. The market value of the shares is unaffected by the fire. The Drury Lane manager, Mr. Arthur Collins, was in Nottingham when the fire occurred.

As a consequence of the accident, which so far is not accounted for, but is supposed to be caused by a fused electric wire, the revival of "The Sign of the Cross," announced for the spring season, cannot take place, but it is expected that the reconstruction of the stage and machinery, with the dressing-rooms and all pertaining to scenic production, shall be completed in time for the promised Drury Lane new autumn drama.

I supplement particulars of the Drury Lane disaster by fire with a note of the burning down of old Covent Garden Theatre, after a series of continuous day entertainments and nightly balls given by Anderson, the "Wizard of the North," in 1856. The present Opera House, standing on the same site, is built upon what was once the Garden of St. Peter's Convent, a monastic institution which since the Reformation has been represented by the Westminster School. The Royal Patent for the original theatre, built in the time of Charles II., was granted by that monarch to Sir Wm. Davenant (said by tradition to be a natural son of Shakespeare), who, in dramatic company as distinguished from the "King's," was known as that of the Duke of York, afterwards James II.

PIPER PAN.



I am not altogether sorry that Dr. Naylor's prize opera, "The Angelus," is not included in the list of operas for the forthcoming grand opera season at Covent Garden. If produced then, the work would probably have been rendered chiefly by foreign artists, and not by our own.

Now, there is every reason to suppose that it will be heard during the English opera season promised at Covent Garden next year, when it can be performed under conditions most calculated to result in a favourable verdict. Whilst I am not surprised that the Grand Opera Syndicate have postponed producing "The Angelus," I must say it seems strange that up to the present their scheme for this summer contains not one single novelty. The revival of Bizet's first opera, "I Pescatori di Perle," which, by the way, was a failure when originally played over here, and Gluck's "Armide," in German, are indicated. But I should have thought that at least one of the many successful new operas that have been frequently heard on the Continent would have found its way to our leading opera-house by this time.

Of course, the list of artists is quite complete at Covent Garden this season, this being especially the case in regard to the tenors, amongst whom I am delighted to note the names of those two stalwart young British singers, Mr. John McCormack and Mr. Walter Hyde. Then there are the two great queens of song, Mme. Melba and Mme. Tetrazzini to head a long list of hardly less famous sopranos, and the ranks of the baritones, basses, and contraltos are also composed of distinguished vocalists.

So I suppose the management thinks that a well-worn repertory does not matter when operatic stars of the first magnitude appear in the different roles. And while the larger section of opera-goers coincide in this view, I am afraid the small minority of us who sigh for novelties must do so still.

Great things are anticipated from the new Musical League that has just been formed by several eminent musicians. Sir B. Elgar being president, and influential musical amateurs. The holding of annual musical festivals under the best conditions for English music is one of the main objects of the organisation, but foreign composers will also be recommended.

community who have hitherto had little or no opportunity of enjoying fine oratorio or orchestral performances.

I paid a flying visit to the Crystal Palace last week to see Miss Decima Moore in "The Truth," as I was curious to know how the well-known musical comedy actress and vocalist would acquit herself in an entirely dramatic rôle. I was agreeably surprised at Miss Moore's performance, a most arduous part, she showed depth of feeling and histrionic power for which her previous appearances as a light opera heroine had not prepared me. I had a reminder of these things, in Miss Moore's charming rendering of Mr. Paul Reubens's dainty song, "I Love You, Ma Chère."

Another crusade is threatened against the piano-organ, beloved of errand-boys and the children in the poorer districts of London. I cannot understand why the grinders of these instruments do not confine themselves to the area where they are appreciated. But they will keep venturing on footpaths, and people whose purses, or ears find the itine music a torture. This foolishness is likely to cause their final extermination from playing anywhere. I do not object to an occasional piano-organ myself, it seems one of the natural elements in London life; I like, when passing through some of the small streets, to see the urchins dancing to its mechanical measures.

WILL WORKMAN.



A good example of the Free Importers make figures say, what, when fully analysed, they do not say, is shown by our sales and purchases of carriages.

The Free Importers, tells us that we sold abroad in 1907 £1,232,000 worth, and only bought from abroad £566,000 worth and consequently we were doing "good business."

What they don't tell us is, that nearly all we bought came from Protected foreign countries, while of what we sold, £616,000 went to Australia and Canada, £444,000 to other British possessions and neutral foreign countries, and only £172,000 to the £50,000,000 people of Europe and America. £600,000 Canadian took more than twice as much value, £289,000 worth!

Had we had equal trade in carpets with our Protected rivals, then we should have paid 2,500 more carpet makers a year at the same already employed. Had our Australian and Canadian consular purchases just as much per head as did the people of Europe and America, the £616,000 sent to them would have shrunk to £4,300 and we should have required 4,370 less workers as a consequence. Happily, blood is still thicker than water, and Imperial preference is justified by its fruit.

In connection with the all-too-short trade boom, there is a fact about coal production that is worth mentioning. In 1905 we produced 236,000,000 tons, of which we consumed 160,000,000 tons and exported 76,000,000 tons. Last year we produced 285,000,000 tons, of which we consumed 183,000,000 tons and exported 102,000,000 tons. Of the 32,000,000 tons increased production only 14,000,000 tons was used in our own industries, 1,000,000 for steamers in the foreign trade and 17,000,000 went to foreign countries. Tariff Reform, by increasing home production, would keep much of this at home.

How unfit the average Socialist is to be trusted with the destiny of a great nation! How utterly regardless he is of the first principle of all progress—liberty of thought and discussion—was illustrated once more, a fortnight ago at the Bloomsbury Baptist Church, when Mr. Wm. Cot, M.P., gave an address. "Why I am not a Socialist," during which he was continually interrupted by these preachers of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." Attempts were made to eject two prominent Socialists on account of their disorderly conduct, but their friends prevented it. When the meeting was over they displayed their true colours by booing Mr. Cot, who had to be guarded by a ring of stewards.

The "Labour Leader" in its issue for Jan. 3 last had a realistic article on the Conservative Vans. It was headed "Conquering the Vanners: or, A Grapple with the Gramophone," by Ben Gardner. His readers were given the benefit of a tussle between one of the latest gramophones and his operator.

It was all so funny! And then comes the funniest part of all. In the February issue of "The Conservative and Unionist," we are told that "at the moment when this vivid word picture was published no gramophone had spoken a word from any of the National Union Vans!"

Another of the blessings of free imports.

Opens this day, A Palace of Footwear. For the sale of American footwear only.

Such is the announcement which met my eye in "The Daily Graphic," by the illustrations of a young man, 16s. 9d. to 35s. per pair. Do you wonder, then, that a Wellingtonborough correspondent, who sends it to me, should say that "we have are out of work and could make and sell some boots at two-thirds the price—but no work means no food?" If that be the case, the young man is a very fastidious feeder, and it is somewhat remarkable that it will not feed, if it can

possibly help it, on the ground over which the very close relative, the rabbit, has been. Its chief food consists of clover, tender shoots, turnips, carrots, and the like. In winter, when these are unobtainable, it often visits the gardens for cabbages, and does much harm by gnawing the bark off young trees. As all know, the hare makes its way about by a series of jumps, being aided in this by its short front and very long hind legs. Under ordinary circumstances, when going at a good pace, the average jump measures about four feet, but often exceeds this when chased. That the hare is an excellent swimmer is not so well known, but it will only take to the water when changing its feeding ground or is hunted.

Frequenters of the Zoo will regret to hear of the death of Guy Fawkes, the old hippopotamus, for over 35 years a familiar sight there. She was born in 1872. In connection with her death it is interesting to note that only three "hippos" have been born at the Zoo, and that these all entered the world within two years, and came of the same parents. The only one to survive, however, was the third, whose death is now announced.

In accordance with a request from a correspondent ("Marmoset") I give a few notes and hints as to treatment of the marmoset. The marmoset makes a very nice pet, but needs great care and attention. There are several species, and all come from the warm parts of America, especially from Brazil. They form a distinct family of monkeys (known as leopards), instead of possessing hands and nails they have paws furnished with very sharp claws. They are extremely small, the largest being not much bigger than our squirrel. The food in each case is practically the same, and should consist of insects, a little egg, young birds, ripe fruit, sponge cake, and a little hemp seed. The feeding, it will be seen, can practically always be accomplished, but marmosets are very susceptible to cold, and to keep them in a uniformly warm temperature is a much more trying task. Probably the best plan is to put them, where possible, in a greenhouse. Their cages should be large and divided into two compartments, that used for sleeping being well provided with hay, and the other with perches. Marmosets have bred in captivity many times, and are unlike the larger monkeys in this respect, for the young are born in pairs, or rather, twins, and not singly. The common marmoset, the one most frequently imported, is of a tabby colour, with a tuft of white hair in front of the ears.

The six moults which the King promised to present to the Zoological Society arrived there on Tuesday. These form a very desirable addition to the collection, for although the moults have been exhibited there on many occasions it is doubtful whether so many have been seen there at once. These animals have for some time been in Windsor Park. The moult of wild sheep or Sardinia and Corsica, as it is sometimes called, is the smallest of wild sheep, and is, especially at this season, a very handsome creature.

The additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens for the week ending March 22 are a varied and very interesting collection, and many are worthy of note. They include:—Mammals: One gorilla, one chimpanzee, one northern lynx, one English wild bull, two caracals, two jaguars, one Yaguarundi cat, one tapir, one duiker, and two black-eared marmosets. Birds: Two king vultures, two American jabirus, one curassow, one curassow, one black-headed curassow, and one great barbet. Reptiles: Eight puff adders and two Moorish geckos. Invertebrates: Twelve East African snails.

BUCKLAND JUNIOR.



"As mad as a March hare." Every one has heard this old saying, and many have, no doubt, wondered whether the hare displays more signs of insanity during March than any other month of the year, or how it was that this saying originated. It is attributable to the fact that during March, the beginning of the breeding season, the hare is in a exceedingly playful, and it is very interesting to watch its many antics. At this season, too, we may often see two rival Jack hares "sneaking up" in true boxing style and indulging in a sharp bout.

Although, as stated above, the antics are more or less part of the courting performance, yet the most amusing is usually seen when the hare is in the state of the weather was once made to me. It is perfectly true that these animals, like a great many others, before a storm or spell of bad weather, often become very restless. True it is also that March, with its winds, is one of the worst months of the year, yet this would not account for the antics of the male, who evidently has no such reason for his antics. "Painst heart never was fair lady."

"Octopus" has asked me to settle an argument, and his question is:—"Does a hare suckle its young; if so, for about how long?" The hare is a familiar sight to us all (especially in the country), but even to those who see it so often in the country, very little of its general habits is known. The breeding season, as with most animals, depends greatly upon the state of the weather, but the usual time for it to commence is towards the end of February and during the following month. In a mild year an adult female may breed two or three times. The number of leverets, as the young are called, produced at once varies, but is usually between three and four. The hare makes its nest in a tuft of grass or rough herbage, and the young are hidden by the stems of grass which the old female pulls into position after her entry or exit. For the first few weeks, during the greater part of which the young are suckled at night, the mother, they follow her about learning to eat and find suitable food, but as soon as this has been mastered and they can rely upon their speed to escape their enemies, they leave her. They and timid as the hare naturally is, it will often, when the young are suckled, fight pluckily for them. Unlike the rabbit, the young are born fully furred and with open eyes.

The hare is a very fastidious feeder, and it is somewhat remarkable that it will not feed, if it can

possibly help it, on the ground over which the very close relative, the rabbit, has been. Its chief food consists of clover, tender shoots, turnips, carrots, and the like. In winter, when these are unobtainable, it often visits the gardens for cabbages, and does much harm by gnawing the bark off young trees. As all know, the hare makes its way about by a series of jumps, being aided in this by its short front and very long hind legs. Under ordinary circumstances, when going at a good pace, the average jump measures about four feet, but often exceeds this when chased. That the hare is an excellent swimmer is not so well known, but it will only take to the water when changing its feeding ground or is hunted.

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OLD IZAAK.



Thames trout fishing begins on Wednesday next, April 1, when, given fair conditions, some of the fish, whose habits and feeding times have been noted beforehand, are almost sure to fall to the anglers. The season nominally lasts until Sept. 11, but from June onwards the river is always so much disturbed by boats, that comparatively few fish are taken. The trout may only be fished for by spinning, live baiting, or with the fly (an Alexandra for choice), but Thames trout, as a rule, are not fly-feeders, and live baiting nearly always secures the larger fish. Worm-fishing for trout is forbidden by the Conservancy by-laws.

Thanks largely to the efforts of the Preservation Society now and in bygone years, the Thames is acknowledged to be the finest free and open river of its kind in the world, and its fish will compare favourably as regards size, number, and variety, with those of any free river in the country. Its stock has been greatly added to of late, and among the fish put in have been a splendid lot of tench and perch, purchased by the Reading and District Association from the United Fisheries, Haslemere, which were placed in suitable parts of the Reading portion of the river. The Reading Association, of which Mr. T. R. Moore is hon. sec., is deserving of the fullest support, and I commend its good work to the notice of all anglers fishing the portion of the river it protects.

Several correspondents send me accounts of the doings of themselves and friends during the closing days of the coarse fishing season, the most notable being the capture of a 17lb. pike, 5ft. in length, by Mr. L. C. Cross, which was taken from the bank, boat-fishing with a small roach as bait, just above Teddington Lock. Mr. G. O. Paulin, an old-time

angler, of the Star Inn, London-rd., Newbury, had a curious experience in the Kennet, where, after some hours fishing for pike, he had anchored, cooped run, and a fine 16lb. fish was landed. Baiting again, one of 13lb. came to grief, and in it was found a partly-digested pike of 14in., which, contrary to general experience, was swallowed tail first.

The event of the week will be the annual dinner of the Watford Piscatorial Society, to be held at the Malden Hotel, Watford, on Friday next, April 3, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. J. Ellis. The Watford Piscators are among the best of the followers of Isaac Walton, and from a social and artistic point of view, in addition to the merits as an anglers' gathering, of the best of the season. "Old Isaac" hopes to be among them on the occasion.

No less than 573 competitors took part in the match in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, held on the Lee, near the Rye House, on Sunday last, but the wind and rain to a great extent prevented fishing, and many of the anglers made an early return home. Only 111 of the competitors brought fish to the scale, and the total weight taken was under 3lb. 7oz., of which 101oz. fell to Mr. G. Carter (Duke of Norfolk A.S.), who headed the list of prize winners. Mr. A. Burton (Albion Brothers) and Mr. J. Dunn (Putney A.S.) came next with 5oz. and 5oz. each respectively. The competition was resumed to-day (Sunday), when the successful anglers of last week will compete again, and any other club anglers may join in. There are 30 prizes yet to be fished for. The arrangements were admirably carried out by Mr. W. H. Barber (hon. sec. A.B.S.), Mr. W. J. Wade, and the officials attending, and it is devoutly to be hoped that the competition will yield better results, and the scene be more in use than on Sunday last.

The meetings of the City of London Piscatorial Society continue to be as attractive as ever. Last week Mr. John Dryden (hon. librarian) ably discoursed on "Fishing at Slapton Ley," and told of the sport to be had in this renowned water, situate near Torcross, about midway between Kingsbridge and Dartmouth. Pike, trout, roach, and rudd, abound there, and boats, which are requisite, are always to be had for fishing. Capital sea fishing is also to be found in the locality. The results of the coarse fishing season just closed were discussed at the last meeting, and Tuesday next, March 31, is to be a "ladies' night," when an exceptionally fine programme of music, under the kind and able directorship of Mr. Merritt, is sure to draw a crowded room. Some fine samples of chub were taken by Mr. E. J. Orpin and Mr. F. James at the close of the season. Mr. Haynes and Mr. Merritt had pike, and Mr. Isaac and Mr. Mellersh were also among the successful anglers.

However poor the result of the past coarse fishing season as regards the number of fish taken, the specimen fish list annually compiled by Mr. A. R. Matthews, and just published in "The Anglers' News," shows no relative falling off as regards the size of many of those landed. Omitting salmon, the 18lb. trout caught by Mr. J. Briggs in the New River at Haringey heads the list, the largest being a trout 8lb. 3oz., falling to Mr. P. Gleen at Chertsey. A pike of 28lb. was taken by Mr. E. Laver at Epsom Park, Dorking, and one of similar weight by the Rev. W. P. Malden at Belvoir Castle. Roach of 2lb. 5oz. each were caught in the Arun at Amberley by Mr. A. L. Woods (Penge A.S.) and Mr. P. Allum (St. Bernard's A.S.) and three of 1lb. 10z. each were taken at Hertford and Farnborough by Mr. G. Tobbutt and Mr. W. Neale respectively. A bream of 7lb. 11oz. was caught by Mr. W. G. Perkins (West Green A.S.) from the Colne. Dr. L. C. Macory landed a 10lb. barbel at Sunbury, and a chub of 6lb. fell to the rod of Mr. T. W. Kinn, who, angling from the Arden at Chertsey. A companion table of big sea fish caught by rod and line last year, compiled by Mr. A. E. Jackson, appears in the current number of the paper, forming together a complete record of the specimen fish of the season.

The Good Intent Angling Society, one of the oldest in London, announce a concert to be held at the headquarters, the Blue Anchor, Chancery, Shoreditch, on Monday, April 6. It is to be in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Mr. W. Stirling will preside, and Mr. W. H. Barber (hon. secretary A.B.S.) occupies the vice-chair. All anglers are invited.

June onwards the river is always so much disturbed by boats, that comparatively few fish are taken. The trout may only be fished for by spinning, live baiting, or with the fly (an Alexandra for choice), but Thames trout, as a rule, are not fly-feeders, and live baiting nearly always secures the larger fish. Worm-fishing for trout is forbidden by the Conservancy by-laws.

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Several correspondents send me accounts of the doings of themselves and friends during the closing days of the coarse fishing season, the most notable being the capture of a 17lb. pike, 5ft. in length, by Mr. L. C. Cross, which was taken from the bank, boat-fishing with a small roach as bait, just above Teddington Lock. Mr. G. O. Paulin, an old-time

angler, of the Star Inn, London-rd., Newbury, had a curious experience in the Kennet, where, after some hours fishing for pike, he had anchored, cooped run, and a fine 16lb. fish was landed. Baiting again, one of 13lb. came to grief, and in it was found a partly-digested pike of 14in., which, contrary to general experience, was swallowed tail first.

of the hat shapes are covered with Shantung! Lace and insertion are dyed to match its many shades, and it is trimmed with braid, galloon embroidery, or outback braid. When choosing a frock we must remember that this is one which can be worn either for morning wear or for smart functions. There is a point of the greatest importance in our toilettes just now—the clinging skirts make it impossible for anyone to fit a skirt properly if a proper corset is not worn, and the proper corset gives a straight line to the figure, keeps the hips in their proper place, and makes even a stout woman look slim. Imitations of the required shape are rife, but many are a deception and a snare—the bones break, and the whole thing gets out of gear in a very short time.

It is far better to pay a guinea than 18s. 11d. in this instance, and as one of the best corset makers in London makes a specialty of guinea corsets, there is no reason why we should invest in cheap and unsatisfactory rubbish. A good corset will gradually reduce the figure, getting all the adipose tissue into its proper place. Over this corset, which is short in the bust—unless otherwise ordered—and long over the hips and at the back, the new skirt will fit with slavish-like precision, not a crease will be seen in a Princess frock, and the tailor-made costume will look its best; but the badly-corseted woman need not hope to look smart this season.

Truth to tell, our frocks are rather difficult. Their simplicity is a snare, and the skirt hands are in such demand that it will be a puzzle to find them! All the skirts—even the belted and somewhat voluminous Marie Antoinette—are fitted from waist to knee.

The tailors are encountering difficulties just because of their customers' corsets, and here again it is the skirt that tells. Another event in fashion is the return of the petticoat, which was supposed to be in luncheon for all time, but the Louis Seize style of dress demands a flouncing and frilling that make our beloved iron from petticoats quite indispensable. They will be quite exactly like the skirts, all of which must be unlined. Sometimes the petticoat is of the same colour as the skirt, thus forming a slip as well as a petticoat, which is most economical; but this effect can also be had with the detachable flounce.

We shall dress in all one colour, or two shades of one colour, this season, and the smartest woman will be the quietest in tones of colour for outdoor wear. We shall make up for this in tinsel for our evening gowns, which will show new shades of straw and butter colour, mauve and lilac, golden brown, and pearl grey, and, above all, every tint of blue and cherry colour. Trimmings are growing in magnificence, and tassels, buttons, and hanging ornaments are profusely used. The latest bolts are edged with gold and silver tinsel fringes. Gloves are being embroidered and hand painted.

The Zi-Zi pinafore, or overall, is composed of washing silk, nun's veiling, tulle, or any washing material. The yoke is tucked on either side, and there is a tucked chemise framed in embroidery or lace. The



THE ZI-ZI OVERALL.

bishop sleeves have neat little cuffs of embroidery. The skirt has one deep tuck at the foot. This overall will take one and a half yards of material and one and a half yards of insertion.

PATTERN ORDER FORM.

Send orders to "People's Office," and mark envelope "Madame."

Description	Measure	Description	Measure
1. Back, round	36 in.	4. Skirt, in	36 in.
2. Waist	24 in.	5. Skirt, out	36 in.
3. Bust, round	36 in.	6. Skirt, hem	36 in.
7. Skirt, waist	36 in.	8. Skirt, hem	36 in.
9. Skirt, waist	36 in.	10. Skirt, hem	36 in.
11. Skirt, waist	36 in.	12. Skirt, hem	36 in.
13. Skirt, waist	36 in.	14. Skirt, hem	36 in.
15. Skirt, waist	36 in.	16. Skirt, hem	36 in.
17. Skirt, waist	36 in.	18. Skirt, hem	36 in.
19. Skirt, waist	36 in.	20. Skirt, hem	36 in.
21. Skirt, waist	36 in.	22. Skirt, hem	36 in.
23. Skirt, waist	36 in.	24. Skirt, hem	36 in.
25. Skirt, waist	36 in.	26. Skirt, hem	36 in.
27. Skirt, waist	36 in.	28. Skirt, hem	36 in.
29. Skirt, waist	36 in.	30. Skirt, hem	36 in.
31. Skirt, waist	36 in.	32. Skirt, hem	36 in.
33. Skirt, waist	36 in.	34. Skirt, hem	36 in.
35. Skirt, waist	36 in.	36. Skirt, hem	36 in.
37. Skirt, waist	36 in.	38. Skirt, hem	36 in.
39. Skirt, waist	36 in.	40. Skirt, hem	36 in.
41. Skirt, waist	36 in.	42. Skirt, hem	36 in.
43. Skirt, waist	36 in.	44. Skirt, hem	36 in.
45. Skirt, waist	36 in.	46. Skirt, hem	36 in.
47. Skirt, waist	36 in.	48. Skirt, hem	36 in.
49. Skirt, waist	36 in.	50. Skirt, hem	

IN THE COURTS YESTERDAY.

STORIES TOLD TO MAGISTRATES AND CORONERS.

King's Bench Division.

LADY HUNTLY'S DRESSES.

Justice Darling, sitting to hear judgment on an application by Mr. Conquest, on behalf of Mrs. Conquest, for the return of the dresses of Lady Huntly, for non-payment of £21 3s., the balance of account for dresses supplied to Lady Huntly. The original amount was £76, and Mr. Conquest stated that Lady Huntly was possessed of ample private means. The debt was incurred in 1901, and an order for judgment was made against her ladyship, in an action to recover the amount of the debt. Subsequently the Marquis gave his guarantee for the payment of the balance, which was the subject of the present application, but he had failed to pay, and would not do so, said counsel, except by an order of the Court. That he was able to pay was evidenced by the fact that on a previous occasion an order had been made against him by Justice Bigham, on a claim for £171, which was paid. Justice Darling made an order for payment of the full amount within a month.

Admiralty Court.

SALVAGE SERVICES.

Justice Bigham Deane had before him a claim by the owners, masters and crews of the steam tug Petrol and Verne for salvage remuneration for services rendered to the Glasgow steamship Meraggio, on Oct. 25. The Meraggio, whilst on a voyage from Bona (Algeria) to Granemouth, was putting into Portland Harbour to obtain a supply of bunker coal when she grounded on the outer breaker. In a few minutes the tug Petrol came alongside. Her services were accepted, and she began to tow, after which the Meraggio was towed to the harbour under her own steam. Defendants admitted the services but denied that the Meraggio was in any particular danger. They paid into court £500, and asked that this was more than sufficient to satisfy plaintiff's claim. The value of the Meraggio with her cargo and freight was £13,906. Plaintiffs awarded £715. Judgment accordingly with costs.

Crown Cases Reserved.

A FATHER'S CRUELTY.

A Court for the Consideration of Crown Cases Reserved, composed of the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Grantham, Lawrence, Hildy, and Pickford, had before it the case of Chas. Connor, who at the last Liverpool Assizes was found guilty of cruelty to his daughter, Mary K. Connor, aged 7. Justice Bigham had accused the father of three months' hard labour, but released him on bail pending the decision of the High Court on two legal points. It appeared that Connor, in February, 1907, left his wife, who was living in Great Richmond-st., with five children. He subsequently returned to his wife, and at the time was earning a weekly wage of £10. The wife, however, allowed his wife £15 a week for the maintenance of herself and children. This being insufficient, by an act. Notwithstanding outside aid, it appeared that the children were poorly clad and ill-fed. Accused at a later date again left his wife, who said she once met him in the street, but feared to ask him for money as he might have assaulted her. At the time of his arrest he had £2 10s. 10d. upon him, but had, notwithstanding, neglected to pay for the maintenance of his wife and children. The questions of law left to the Crown were (1) had prisoner under the circumstances the custody of the children within the meaning of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1904; and (2) was the omission of prisoner to pay the money to his wife after he had finally left her a sufficient neglect within the meaning of the Act? The Lord Chief Justice answered both questions in the affirmative, and the conviction was accordingly upheld.

Guildhall.

"A DANGEROUS PEST."

The above description was applied to Thos. Campling, 35, Hawker, who was charged with disorderly conduct outside Broad-st. station. P.C. Clements stated that he had to repeatedly order Campling out of the street. He would station himself where the 'buses' pulled up and molest passengers, touting for their luggage to carry. In the event of refusal, he used filthy language and went so far as to snatch bags and parcels from females. One conductor who went to protect a passenger was subjected to some rough treatment, and accused threatened to stab him when he got the chance. "He is a dangerous pest to the neighbourhood," concluded the officer. Twenty previous convictions were proved against Campling, who was ordered to find a surety of £10 to be of good behaviour for three months, or in default three months' hard labour.

Bow-street.

LANDLORD AND POTMAN.

At the hearing of a charge of theft against Edwin Jas. Bussell, it was stated that prisoner had been employed for a year and eight months at the Museum Tavern, 64, Russell-st. On Feb. 22 the barmaid handed him £17 in gold, and asked him to get it changed for silver. Prisoner did not return, and nothing more was heard of him until Thursday, when, having spent every farthing of the money, he gave himself up to the police at Brighton. He was conveyed to London by Det.-sergt. Farrant. He told the officer that while he was counting the gold, after leaving the public-house, a boy knocked against

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A German named Emil Genzel, 46, described as a hairdresser, was charged, on remand, with maliciously setting fire to the premises, 214, Portland-rd., South Norwood, on March 8 with intent to injure the property of Maria Kelly. Early on the morning in question the house was found to be on fire, and the firemen discovered turpentine, paraffin, matches, 130 pieces of freshly chopped wood, some rags, paper and wood on the stairs. The wood had been placed as one would lay a fire in a grate. There were signs of a fire in the house having been recently slept in, but prisoner was missing. He had taken the premises on a three years' agreement, and he was in arrears with his rent. He was arrested at Stourbridge, near Birmingham. In reply to the charge, prisoner said, "I know nothing about it. I did not know what I was doing. They told me to have brought the action against me." He added, "I am a respectable and most honourable man to King Edward VII. I don't know if I am fit for that purpose (giving evidence)." Clerk: Why don't you think you are fit? Prisoner: I have been a bit strange lately. I think it seems something mysterious all the time getting into the prison doctor's examination room as to the state of his mind.

Lambeth.

A DISHONEST DOMESTIC.

Telling her that he regarded her as belonging "to a dangerous class of criminal," the magistrate committed for trial Jessie Whistler, 28, a domestic, on a charge of having stolen a sable tie and other articles of wearing apparel valued at £10, belonging to her employer, Mrs. Wooderson, of Peckham-rd. Accused was only a day in the service of that lady, after which articles were missed. When arrested and taken to the police, she took them and pawned them. Further evidence showed that accused entered the shop wearing the muff and necktie, and carrying the jacket in a parcel. When pleading the things, accused is alleged to have said that she only wanted the money temporarily, promising to "take them out in the morning." A number of previous convictions of theft committed under similar circumstances were proved against the accused.

Stratford.

A MISSING PROSECUTOR.

Two men, Thos. Brightley, 28, bricklayer, of Belmont Park-rd., and Wm. Reynolds, 25, costermonger, of Sophia-rd., Leyton, were charged, on remand, with stealing eight 25s. notes from Joseph Wilson, jobmaster, of Birchall-rd., Leyton. The evidence of the prosecutor was that he met prisoners in the Bakers Arms, Lea Bridge-rd., and, knowing them, stood near and gave Brightley a shilling. He got "a little tipsy," and they went to Stratford, where they took a cab and were supposed to go to Wansted. When they got to the Leyton station, Reynolds, it was alleged, took a hold of his arms, and Brightley took his purse and the money from his pocket. Det. Tobutt now stated that prosecutor was not in attendance, and he had reason to believe he had left the neighbourhood. He asked for a remand. The Chairman: Why should he be remanded? He has given him every chance. He has been given a drunken state and gets robbed. It is his own property. (To prisoners) You will be discharged. Prisoners: Thank you, sir.

Left in his smock.

Assistance in tracing his son was applied for by Albert Momp, a bootmaker, of Coppermill-lane, W. London. The boy, Albert Samuel, 15, was missing since Wednesday, March 25. To be was in the employ of a butcher, of Hoe-st., who on Wednesday had occasion to speak to him.

West London.

BURGLARY AT A FLAT.

A traveller, Geo. Dalentine, 37, no home, was charged with breaking into a flat at Clydebank Mansions, Clydebank, and stealing five gold brooches and other articles of jewellery, belonging to Miss Ash. (Walter Halgrave, porter at the mansions, stated that on Friday morning he entered the flat to leave some letters, and then everything was safe. In the afternoon he was in the flat below, and heard a noise upstairs, went to Miss Ash's flat and found the door burst open. He went for the police. On entering he found prisoner in the front bedroom in the act of opening a bureau with a jemmy. On seeing him he put the jemmy in his pocket and rushed out of the room into the arms of the police. Four rooms had been entered and nearly every drawer and chest of drawers had been forced open. Most of the jewellery was found in prisoner's pockets. Remanded.

Old-street.

SMART BOY COMMENDED.

Through the "cuteness" of a boy, Geo. Taylor, a middle-aged man, is awaiting trial at the Central Criminal Court. The boy, Wm. Samuels, who is 13 years of age, and whose parents kept a fruit shop in Church-st., Spitalfields, was playing in the street when Taylor asked him to fetch him two pines, handing him a florin. The waiter, having taken the coin to the base, and handed it back to the boy, who went home and informed his father. The latter, suspecting something, told his son to go into the street and place himself in the way of the man again, promising to follow. The boy spotted the man, and walked close to him, handed him another base florin, this time asking him to get them into custody. Two months' hard labour.

Greenwich.

EXTENSIVE RAILWAY CARRIAGE THEFTS.

After several hearings, Patrick Joseph Buckley, 28, and Alfred Chapman, 26, were committed for trial on charges of stealing 150 from rail-carriage of the New Cross and Beckley divisions of the L.B. and S.C. Railway. Evidence has been given of several thefts of horsehair from railway carriages, considerable damage to the cushions being also alleged against prisoners. Mr. Brewer, who prosecuted, now preferred a further charge against Chapman of being concerned with one (since convicted) in stealing 41b of horsehair from another carriage, and doing damage to the value of £23. Insp. Badcock, of the railway company's police, deposed to seeing Chapman on the line at the time of the theft. Prisoner denied this.

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West London.

BURGLARY AT A FLAT.

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

PARAGRAPHS FROM ALL PARTS.

In London 2,401 births and 1,455 deaths were registered last week. The births were 140 and the deaths 60 below the average.

The 1,455 deaths included 24 from measles, 11 from scarlet fever, 15 from diphtheria, 32 from whooping-cough, 2 from enteric fever, and 19 from diarrhoea.

The deaths attributed directly to influenza numbered 64, and those to different forms of violence to 52.

In Greater London 3,776 births and 2,117 deaths were registered. Allowing for increase of population, these numbers are 155 and 19 below the respective averages in the corresponding weeks of the previous five years.

The deaths registered last week in 76 great towns of England and Wales corresponded to an annual rate of 16.9 per 1,000 of their aggregate population, which is estimated at 16,234,932 persons in the middle of this year. In the preceding three weeks the rates had been 17.3, 17.6, and 17.2.

After 60 years' service as Secretary of The Lawn Hospital for the Insane, Lincoln, Mr. Richard Hall has retired in his 84th year.

The Transvaal Government, in co-operation with the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, will hold a trial next year for small rock drills suitable for narrow stopping work on the Witwatersrand. Two prizes of £4,000 and £1,000 will be offered.

The Natal Government emphatically denies the statement contained in a telegram from Miss Colenso to English newspapers that the magistrate of Nkandla is a notorious dogging centre. No native has been dogged there since the proclamation of martial law in November last.

A QUIVER FULL.
The wife of Mr. Alfred Newell, of Gosherton, Rye, South Lincolnshire, has just given birth to her 21st child.

A Nervous Shock.
J. W. Harrison, a Hunslet builder, was awarded £50 damages at Leeds Assizes against the Wakefield and District Light Railways Co. Plaintiff was lightning from a car when the span wire came down, "burned part of plaintiff's clothes, and caused a nervous shock."

CLOSED DOOR IN MANCHURIA.
British merchants in Tientsin and Newchwang have addressed strong protests to the British Foreign Office regarding Japan's opposition to the proposed Chinese railway from Tientsin to Fokien. They contend that the action of the Japanese is opposed to the pledges given by Japan in the Portsmouth Treaty.

Whilst returning from school a child, aged six, son of a postman, named Jones, was killed by an express train at Pewsey, Wilts.

Mr. Geo. Hawkins, J.P., for many years chairman of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society, has died at Oxford.

Wild strawberries and violets are in bloom at Headley, Hants, and at Ascot a thrush's nest containing four eggs has been found.

"Thank you, your worship; you are discharging an honest, hard-working gentleman," said a piano-organ player on being dismissed by the lameth magistrate.

Japanese merchants are reported to be hurriedly leaving Canton, South China, as the result of the boycott following on the release of the Japanese steamer Tatsu Maru.

While hanging over a precipice on the Italian Wand, in the Sommering Range, to pluck flowers, a Vienna clerk named Lutz, Drossler fell 300ft. and was killed on the spot.

LAME'S LONG FAST.
After having been locked in a barn for seven weeks without food or drink, a Scotch wether lamb was found alive at Golding's Farm, Horsham, though in a terrible plight, as the result of its prolonged fast. The lamb must have jumped in a bin, and, being unable to get out, remained undiscovered.

MILITARY KNIGHT'S MEMORIAL.
An onyx tablet in moulded carved frame of Hoptonwood stone, from the designs of Mr. A. Y. Nutt, architect, at Windsor Castle, has been erected in the south choir of St. George's Chapel to the memory of the late Maj. Dyke Marsh. He was a Military Knight of Windsor for 17 years, entered the Army in 1854, and served in the Crimea and India.

A DIRECTORY OF NURSES.
Lord Balfour of Burleigh has introduced into the House of Lords a Bill which will authorise the establishment of an official directory of nurses on which every nurse who has received training in nursing at a hospital, infirmary, or other institution for the cure of the sick, and not being an institution carried on for private gain, shall be entitled to have his or her name entered, providing the applicant has not been convicted of certain specified offences.

A gardener named Thos. Williams, of Merthyr, has died from tetanus, caused by a splinter in his hand.

West Ham's Finance Committee recommends a rate for the half-year ending Sept. 30 of 4s. 8d., a reduction of one penny.

Three hundred and fifty persons were lost at sea off the American coast between Connecticut and Canada during the last six months.

Sir F. Falkner, K.C., for 29 years Recorder of Dublin, has died at Funchal, Madeira, from pneumonia. He was 77 years old.

For the first time in county court history, two judges this week sat in one of the metropolitan courts, Judge Edge and Judge Bray presiding over the double court at Clerkenwell.

The installation of Lord Brassey as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports has been postponed from Easter Tuesday until the end of June or early July.

Wm. Barton, tramp, has been sent for trial at Reading charged with knocking down P.O. Painting, who had told him to stop using obscene language, and stabbing him three times.

A Departmental Committee on Bankruptcy Law Reform, which has been sitting for some time, has nearly completed the preparation of its report, which is expected to be ready in a month's time.

Speaking at the Council of the Congregational Union at Gloucester, Sir Compton Rickett, chairman of the Union for 1907, said that in his visitation of the churches he had covered 25,000 miles by rail and road, and had been in every county in England.

The first municipal election since the introduction of the Licensing Bill took place at Peterborough this week. The result was in favour of the Conservative candidate, Mr. J. Williams, son, who polled 965 against 819 polled by the Radical, Mr. Burch. The seat was originally held by a Radical alderman.

THE MILITARY TOURNAMENT.
The principal feature of the 29th Royal Naval and Military Tournament, which will be held at Olympia from May 21 to June 6, will be a "devil dance" and an exhibition of bush fighting by native West African soldiers.

S.A. IMMIGRANTS.
Replying to charges of importing useless immigrants who swell the ranks of the unemployed, the Salvation Army's immigration department in Canada declares that it has found positions for all its people and accepts full responsibility for them.

THE CANADIAN CELEBRATIONS.
Earl Grey cabled to Mr. Deakin inviting him to attend the Canadian Centenary celebrations. The Federal Premier, being unable to leave Australia, cabled to the Earl of Dudley, the newly-appointed Governor-General, inviting him to represent the Commonwealth. The Earl has cordially consented.

"I was thunderstruck, not drunk," was the indignant remonstrance of a woman prisoner at Acton Police Court.

The Rev. S. F. Sylvester, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds, ascended the spire of the parish church and inspected the new weather-vane.

Great waves raised by a gale and beating on the beach revealed a quantity of buried gold coins and jewellery at Paredelha, Portugal.

Mr. Arthur Prime, rural postman between Needham Market and Cretingham, Suffolk, has retired after 35 years' service, during which he has walked 192,000 miles.

Knowing that he was doomed to die, a prisoner within a month, John Banton, an inmate of King's Lynn infirmary, committed suicide by taking carbolic acid.

The statement published by a Madrid journal to the effect that doctors consider it necessary to amputate King Manuel's wounded arm is officially declared to be a pure fabrication.

At Birmingham, Chas. T. Pepper, tutor, was committed for trial on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences from Fredk. H. Steele, manager of a branch of Lloyds Bank, by representing that he had a large account at West Kensington.

Burglars paid a visit to St. Michael's Church at Lichfield between Sunday night and early Monday morning, and after doing considerable damage, decamped, not having found anything valuable enough to appropriate.

VENTNOR TOWN CLERKSHIP.
For the post of town clerk of Ventnor, rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. E. M. Barr, who has accepted a more lucrative appointment as town clerk of Hanwell, no fewer than 74 applications were received. Mr. W. Toser, clerk and accountant to Rothwell (Northants) Urban District Council, was appointed at a salary of £166 per annum.

A LINK WITH THE PAST.
The original of Mr. Tope, chief verger of Cloisterham Cathedral in Dickens' "Edwin Drood," has just passed away in the person of Mr. Wm. Miles, at the age of 92. Mr. Miles was pensioned ex-verger of Rochester (which, of course, was Cloisterham) Cathedral. Commencing as a chorister, at the age of nine, his connection with the cathedral lasted for 75 years.

ETON LAY CLERK'S FUNERAL.
The funeral took place at Clewer Churchyard of Mr. Thos. Smith, a pensioned lay clerk of Eton College, where he had sung for 32 years. He died at the age of 76, and, in addition to his career at Eton College, was afterwards at Manchester Cathedral, and afterwards at New College, Oxford. His Eton colleagues attended the funeral service, which was conducted by Dr. Lloyd, proctor of Eton College.

Jas. Mulligan and Geo. Conway, for street betting in the City, were fined £10 each at the Mansion House.

A Bill to tax motor cars has been read a first time in the Jersey States. The speed limit was fixed at 10 miles an hour.

Sir Jas. Marwick, a well-known authority on municipal law, who was Town Clerk of Glasgow from 1873 to 1903, died this week.

Dr. Mendto Boudelli and Dr. Gustavo Labboni have been elected Captains Regent, and will assume the presidency on April 1 of the Republic of San Marino.

Sir Maurice Holzmann, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., who is retiring from his post as secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall, has been appointed a K.C.B.

For cruelty to her step-daughter, aged 11, Nellie Longhurst, of Brooks Avenue, Beckton, was sent to gaol for 21 days by the East Ham magistrate. Her husband was fined £3.

For smoking in the Knightsbridge lift of the Piccadilly "Tube" 15d., after being ordered to desist, Alfred Fish, a dairyman, of Chelsea, was fined 40s. and 25s. costs at Westminster.

Harry Swayne Smith, 35, ex-Clerk of the Peace for Devon, has been committed for trial on charges of misappropriation of trust money and forgery of deeds, involving about £1,600. Bail was refused.

Believing that her husband was at the point of death, Mrs. Cisco, wife of a New York banker, committed suicide by asphyxiation. Her husband rallied almost immediately after the tragedy, of which he has not yet been informed.

Wm. H. Kelly Harris, seven, of Somers Town, was playing football in the street when a schoolmate kicked him in the body. An abscess formed internally, and the child died soon after an operation to remove it. A verdict of accidental death was returned at the inquest.

SALE OF A V.C.
A Victoria Cross, awarded to Corporal Wm. Goate, of the 9th Lancers, for gallantry at Lucknow, was sold by auction this week for £61. With it was the Indian Mutiny medal, with bars, for the relief of Lucknow and Delhi.

CROSBY HALL.
A resolution in favour of the re-erection of Crosby Hall on a site at Chelsea, in conjunction with a University Hall of residence, was unanimously adopted at a meeting at the residence of Mr. J. Martin White, of Cumberland-place.

15,000 BOYS PETITION PARLIAMENT.
A petition with 15,000 signatures, in three large volumes, organised by the British Lads' Anti-Smoking Union, in support of the Children's Bill's proposal to prohibit juvenile smoking, was presented to Parliament this week by Dr. V. H. Rutherford, M.P.

Public meetings are to be held throughout the country by the Coal Consumers' Defence League.

Damage estimated at about £5,000 was caused by fire at Mr. J. H. Gould's glove manufactory at Tevel. The House of Wales has accepted an invitation to open the new Town Hall which has just been erected at Stockport.

The net proceeds of the matinee at the Aldwych Theatre for the Jewish Children's Penny Dinner Fund amounted to £300.

More than 61,700 boys were fitted out and sent to sea by the Marine Society during the 150 years between 1756 and 1905.

John Bexheld, 25, was struck by a flapping sail and knocked overboard and drowned from the Doria, one of the ships of the Yarmouth fishing fleet.

The Rev. F. C. Beckley, Rector of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Patrick, Wapping, and at one time a member of the 5th London School Board, has died.

Malcolm Douglas Graham, the clerk who stole theological works from 50 different clergymen, was at Westminster, sentenced to 15 months' hard labour.

A French shipbuilding Co. at St. Nazaire is preparing for Russia plans for a new battleship of the enormous displacement of 25,000 tons. She is to be armed with 12 12-in. guns.

Judge Heston, K.C., in the City of London County Court, said it was probable that the power under which county court judges granted committal orders on judgment summonses would soon be abolished. Shopkeepers should be all the more careful in giving so much reckless credit.

NEW SYMBOL WANTED.
The directors of the Paris paper "Le Journal" are offering a prize of £400 for the best symbolic statue of the French Republic of to-day. The figure with the Phrygian cap is considered out of date.

PEDLARS' BOARD.
A pedlar, named Wm. Sands, of Christchurch, who was arrested for being drunk at Bourne-mouth, was found, on being searched, to have the sum of £143 15s. 9d. in gold and silver in his possession. In fine the man 55, and 5s. costs, the chairman of the court at Bourne-mouth remarked that it was fortunate for the defendant that the constable took care of him.

CASUALS ON BICYCLES.
The master of Hasty Workhouse, near Deal, reported to the guardians that two of the casuals had come to the workhouse on bicycles. "That is up to date," was the remark of one member, whilst another observed: "They will come in motors next," and there was a good deal of laughter over the incident. The master subsequently stated that the men were unemployed carpenters, who were touring the country on their bicycles in search of work.

Elissa Ann Owen, 52, died in Ham-mersmith Infirmary from bronchitis, accelerated by falling out of bed.

The total number of persons in receipt of State relief throughout India is now 1,558,439.

America has accepted the invitation of the Chinese Government for the U.S. battleship fleet to visit China.

The L.C.C. Education Committee has drawn up a report which is strongly opposed to the Government's Education Bill.

The Secretary of State for War has appointed Mr. E. H. Cole, barrister-at-law, to be Comptroller of War Department Land.

A Hanley schoolmaster, named Mr. J. H. Brindley, was cycling to his home when the chain of the machine broke, and he was hurled to the ground and killed.

The Ecclesiastical Commission announce that they have set aside first instalment of £100,000 towards the £250,000 which is to form a fund for providing pensions for aged and infirm clergymen.

Details of the competition for the Roberts's trophy for British school boys have been issued. The competitions will be held annually, and open to British boys throughout the world.

Mr. Denzil Robt. Onslow, a member of the Surrey County Cricket Club, and ex-M.P. for Guildford, died at Little St. James's-st., S.W., from heart disease.

A meeting of the Religious Tract Society was held at the Mansel House to promote an appeal for £10,000. This sum is required to enable the organisation to avail itself of the awakening now taking place in China, and spread Christianity by literary methods.

The acute distress which prevails in the Hartlepool has been further intensified by the paying off of a large number of workmen from Messrs. Furness, Withy, and Co.'s shipyard, the reason assigned for the discharge being the lack of orders and the continuance of the engineers' strike.

AN M.P.'S MARRIAGE.
At Humberstone Church, Leicester, Mr. Mansfield, M.P. for the Huntingdon division, was married to Miss S. R. Winterlow, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Winterlow.

OLD WESTMINSTER.
The King has lent five drawings of Old Westminster from the royal collection at Windsor to the exhibition of the Royal Amateur Society, which will be held at Speaker's House, Palace of Westminster, from April 2 to 5.

STRUCK BY A HANDLE.
At an inquest at Golcar, near Huddersfield, on Dorothy Sanderson, 23, it was stated that an abscess on the brain was caused through disease being struck by the handle of a wringing machine while she was mangle clothes. She died after an operation.

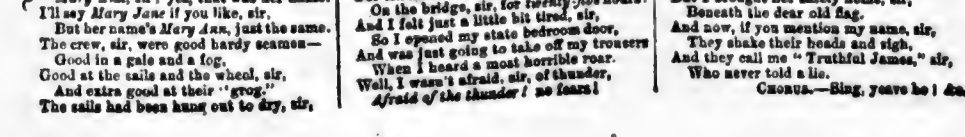
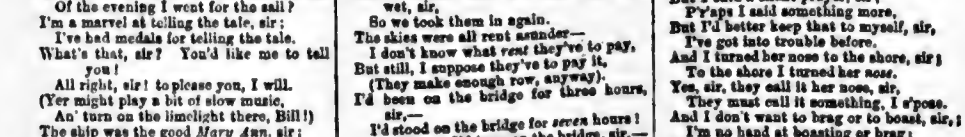
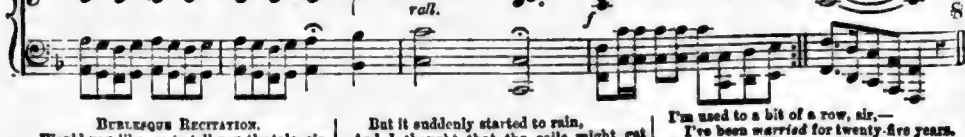
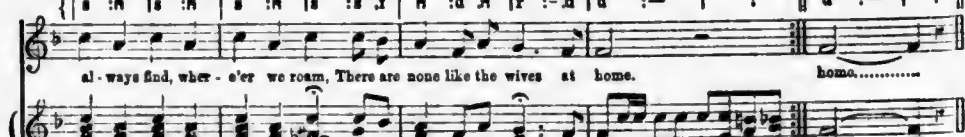
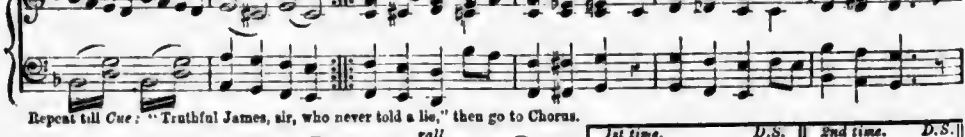
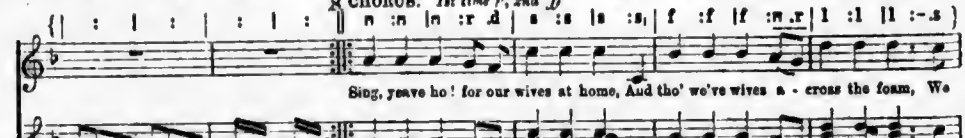
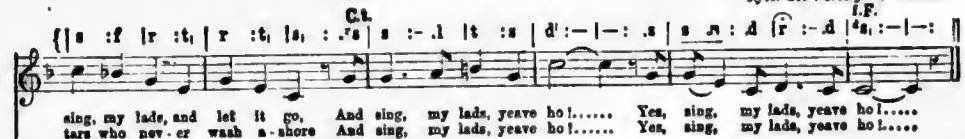
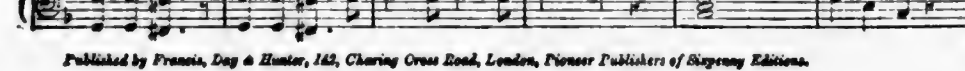
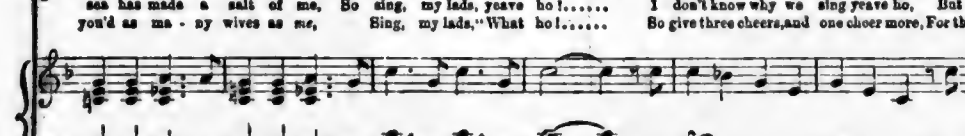
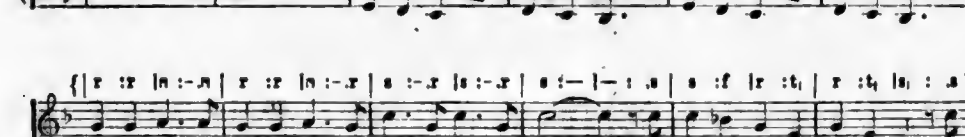
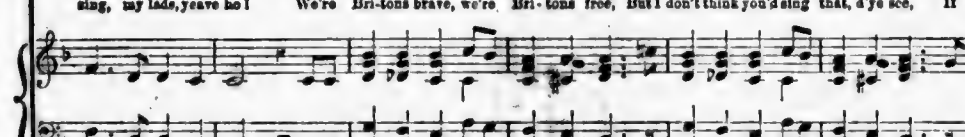
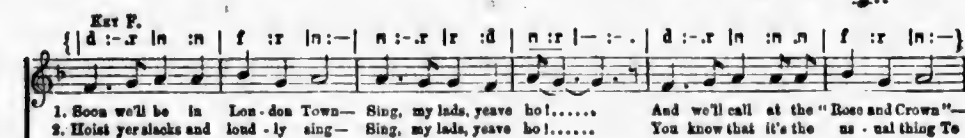
NEXT WEEK, "THE MOST MISERABLE MAN ON EARTH." SONG BY SAM MAYO.

"SING, MY LADS, YEAVE HO!"

SUNG with Great Success by WILKIE BARD.

This Song may be sung in public without Fee or Licence, except at Theatres or Music Halls. [COPYRIGHT.]

Written and Composed by NAT MAYER.



THE CLIFF TRAGEDY.

SENSATIONAL STORY IN THE POLICE COURT.

SHOEBLACK'S STARTLING EVIDENCE.

POSTED LETTERS AT NIGHT FOR ACCUSED MAN.

COUNSEL AND THE QUESTION OF MOTIVE.

The police court proceedings in connection with the Bournemouth cliff tragedy were continued this week.

Counsel for the prosecution outlined the case for the Crown and called a shoeblick.

This witness, whose evidence was exclusively foretold in "The People" some weeks ago, said that on the afternoon of the day when the tragedy is supposed to have taken place, prisoner asked him to post two letters for him that evening.

COUNSEL'S STORY.

Just over a month since the discovery was first made the full story of the prosecution was told with regard to the case against Frank Maguire, who is charged with the wilful murder of Miss Emma Sherrieff. The discovery of the body was made on Feb. 18, and the arrest of Maguire followed a few days later.—Mr. Lewis again appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Alabaster defended.—The main evidence that would be offered, said Mr. Lewis, would deal with prisoner's movements between Saturday, Feb. 15, and Friday, Feb. 21, when he was arrested. Prisoner's real name, he said, was John Francis Maguire, although he was known as Powell to his landlady, Mrs. Holder, of Denbigh-st., Pimlico, and also to Mr. Hayman, of Rochester, by whom he had been employed.

"Your Loving Sister." He was 22 years of age, and the son of Mrs. Maguire, a widow, who was in service in Bournemouth as a cook. Miss Sherrieff was a dressmaker, aged 36, whose friendship with Mrs. Maguire was of such a close character that the relations between the two were very much like those of mother and daughter. When accused was a trooper at Christchurch he saw a good deal of Miss Sherrieff, but counsel had every authority for saying that Miss Sherrieff bore an irreproachable character and the relationship between herself and accused was that of a brother and sister. Mr. Lewis then read a letter from Miss Sherrieff to accused, found on him when arrested. It was sent from Palmerston, N. Hombome, and was dated Jan. 11. It ran:

You cannot know, or think, how well your letter was this morning after my long silence. Dear sonny, you must give me, but I had to tell dear mother once to relieve her mind. Dear sonny, you ask if mother is well. She is not well for a long time, but she has a bad foot. She is still at Southdene. (Then followed address) My dear sonny, you speak of coming down. I don't know how you are placed, and other you can get away, but if so, we will be pleased to see you. Mother has a lot to tell you, so you could not go. If you can come down you could tell me. Don't come till after Feb. 15. I shall be away. Then if you like to come down, you can come down as you like, and every welcome you, dear old boy, and we will be up once again. Dear sonny, if you let me have a letter before Friday evening, I need not ask you to write mother, as I know you won't keep her a moment longer than you can.—Your loving sister, Emma.

At the same house. Prisoner came down and arrangements were made for him to have a separate room at Palmerston, and take his meals with Miss Sherrieff. On Monday, Feb. 17, Maguire was supposed to have returned to London. Assuming that he had Bournemouth soon after one o'clock, he would arrive in London at 7.30 the same evening. It would be impossible for him to have returned to London at all on the Monday, every inquiry was being made. The question was did he go, and if why? On the Tuesday morning, the day of the murder, prisoner, said Mr. Lewis, gave a letter to a boy named Blatchford at a shop not far from Miss Sherrieff's lodgings. It was addressed to Miss Sherrieff. Prisoner seemed to have gone to London. A shoeblick named Wingrove, who had been 20 years, had known the prisoner as a customer for three or four months, and, according to Mr. Lewis, would prove that Maguire came to him on the 18th about dinner time, and asked if he would post two letters for him after eight o'clock that evening.

Mysterious Action. Wingrove knew Maguire well, and could identify him. Wingrove was a shoeblick, and could not read, but he would describe the

two envelopes which were handed him, and would say further that he posted the letters as directed a little after eight o'clock at Vauxhall Bridge. That would account for the postmark, "London S.W.," found on two letters, one of which was received at Rochester, and the other by Mrs. Maguire at Bournemouth on the Wednesday morning. Mr. Lewis then took up a time-table and proceeded to explain how, if Maguire contemplated the murder, he could have reached Bournemouth in time to



SYDNEY WINGROVE, The shoeblick, who gave important evidence.

keep an appointment with Miss Sherrieff, who left her lodgings that evening about 6.30. Prisoner was last seen at his lodgings that afternoon at three o'clock.

The Times of Trains. There was a train leaving Waterloo at 4.10 which did not stop till it reached Bournemouth Central. It was due there at 6.16 and on the night of the 18th actually arrived at 6.24. Another train left Waterloo at 4.30 and reached Christchurch on the 18th at 7.21, or two minutes late. There was a tramway-car leaving Christchurch Station for Southbourne at 7.28, and that would reach the Southbourne cross roads, the place of the supposed rendezvous, by 7.40. Prisoner, remarked Mr. Lewis, was actually seen on a tramway-car going towards Christchurch Station that night at 8.12, which would enable him to catch a train arriving at Vauxhall at about a quarter to twelve. This would allow him to reach his lodgings by the time his landlady's daughter saw him enter, a few minutes before midnight.

Only Possibilities. —Mr. Lewis pointed out that at the longest prisoner had only an interval of an hour and forty-eight minutes in which to take Miss Sherrieff to the spot where the body was found, while if he did not reach the cross roads till 7.40 there was an interval of only 37 minutes. From the cross roads to the spot on the cliffs where the body was found was 11 minutes walk, as testified by Supt. Hack, but Miss Sherrieff was not robust, and it would have taken her perhaps 20 minutes.—Counsel admitted that, so far as the trains were concerned, he could not indicate the possibilities, and that prisoner's movements were a matter of conjecture. But he laid stress on the identification of accused as a passenger in a tramway-car near Christchurch, and on the evidence that he was not at his lodgings in Pimlico till a few minutes before midnight. That night prisoner slept at Denbigh-st., and he had his breakfast in bed on Wednesday morning.

A Letter to His Mother. The letter received by Mrs. Maguire on Wednesday read:—

Denbigh-st., Feb. 18. Dr. Mother.—Just a line to let you know I am all right. Emma wants to go, or is going, to Bournemouth Theatre on Wednesday night, so I am running down for Wednesday and Thursday. Will you come too? Will look you up as I come to Christchurch. No more now. Hope you are all right, with love from your loving son, Frank. On Wednesday Maguire came to Bournemouth, found his mother at Miss Sherrieff's lodgings, and when asked if he knew where she was, said he did not know. Having forced the doors open, he went to the police and said a young lady whom he had intended to take to the theatre was missing. At that time, added Mr. Lewis, Miss Sherrieff was lying dead on the cliffs, where she was found on the Thursday. On Friday accused was arrested. If prisoner committed the crime it might be asked what was his motive? Counsel could only say there was none, and never could be, as an adequate motive for murder. It was a matter of inference, and the magistrates, with their experience of life, must be left to draw their own conclusions from the facts before them.

THE EVIDENCE. SHOEBLACK TELLS HOW HE POSTED THE LETTERS.

The solicitors' table was strewn with documents and photographs, and in the course of his address Mr. Lewis passed letters on Miss Sherrieff's and his own, and in her handwriting to the Bench. Taking up the telegram sent on Monday, Feb. 17, Mr. Lewis called Miss Florence Hill, a clerk in the East Strand Post Office, who said the figures 4.56 as the time it was handed in were hers. It was

the time the message was received in the operators' room upstairs. The landlady of the Salisbury Hotel, Bournemouth, and the bookkeeper, Miss Ada Bates, then repeated their evidence as to the accused having slept at the hotel on the nights of Feb. 17 and 19. On both occasions, when asked for a deposit, he produced a sovereign, and received change. Prisoner's signature in the hotel book was shown, the initials being, "Frank Hayman, London, Room 30."

His Business Name. Prisoner told the landlady, however, that that was only his business name.—The next witness, a boy named Fdk. Blatchford, told how Maguire came into a shoemaker's shop where he was employed.—Mr. Lewis: What did he ask you to do? He asked me to deliver a letter to Miss Sherrieff. Prisoner said, "This was about 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning, Feb. 18, and the shop is only a few hundred yards from Miss Sherrieff's lodgings. Witness added that the envelope was of white paper, and addressed in ink.—There was considerable sensation in court when Mr. Lewis called Sydney Wingrove, the shoeblick, whom he had referred to in his opening.—A man of about 40 hobbled to the witness-box by the aid of a crutch. He had often seen prisoner, and regarded him as

A Regular Customer. and last saw him about six weeks ago the previous Tuesday at about two o'clock. "While I cleaned his boots he said, 'Are you going to be here all day?' I said, 'Yes, sir,' he said, 'Will you post these two letters for me?' and I said, 'Yes, sir.' Then he said, 'Don't you post them before eight o'clock to-night,' and gave me sixpence.—Mr. Lewis: Can you read? I can read a paper, but not handwriting very well. Describing the envelopes, Wingrove said they were square and bluish-grey in colour. He posted them at the post-office in Vauxhall Bridge-rd. at 8.5. He fired the time by the clock opposite the post-office.

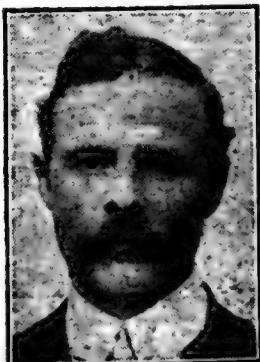
A Letter to a Barmaid. Mr. Lewis: Have you ever posted a letter before for prisoner? Yes, about three months ago; a letter to a barmaid. He remarked the day because he usually went home to dinner on Monday and Tuesday, but not other days, because his wife went out to work. On the 18th his wife asked him why he had not gone home to dinner, and why he was late, and he told her about the letters. He saw prisoner again at his pitch near Victoria Station, and prisoner asked whether he had posted the letters. Witness replied, "Yes, they would have them at nine this morning."

(Yesterday's proceedings will be found on page 1.)

A MAN OF COURAGE.

HONOURED BY THE PRINCE OF WALES.

For having performed the bravest deed of the year 1907, Wm. H. Parr, an able seaman, of Patter-end, Enfield, was at Marlborough House, presented by the Prince of Wales with the Stanhope gold medal. Parr saved the life of a comrade named James Moore, who had fallen overboard from the steamer Ilora, belonging to Messrs. Reading and Co., Aberdeen Line, into the shark-infested waters of the Inhambana river, East Africa. The brave deed has already been recorded in "The People." The secretary of the Royal Humane Society, who read to the Prince of Wales the



WILLIAM H. PARR. (Photo by "Typical.")

details of the act, accompanied Parr to Marlborough House. His Royal Highness said it gave him the greatest pleasure to meet so brave and courageous a man, and also to hand him a medal for having performed what had been adjudged the bravest rescue of the year.

A PROUD MOMENT. Recounting his experiences afterwards, Parr says: "We were first of all shown into a large room, where we waited a few minutes. Presently one of the doors opened and in came the Prince of Wales with his private secretary. The last time I saw him was when he was on his Colonial tour. I was then in the Royal Navy. As soon as I saw his Royal Highness, I bowed, and he said, 'Good morning' to us all. One of the company then handed him the medal, which he presented to me. 'Allow me to congratulate you,' he said, 'on receiving the Stanhope gold medal for saving life.' 'Thank you, your Royal Highness,' I replied. We then shook hands. After that was a proud moment incident which won me the medal was read over to the Prince, who next presented me with the certificate and shook hands again. Hearing that I had been in the Navy, he asked me how long I served. 'Ten years,' your Royal Highness," I replied. "And what ship were you on?" said he. "I told him I served on the Champion, the Charybdis, the Comus, and the Immortalité. He then shook hands with everybody, wished us good morning, and went out."

Lord Knollys, the King's private secretary, returned to Painsdown, after having waited in town to represent the King at a service in London in memory of the Duke of Devonshire.

A WHIRL ABOUT CLOTHES. ALWAYS a whirl about clothes, and then you can be sure they are as well washed as the clothes of a sailor. All the way in with the

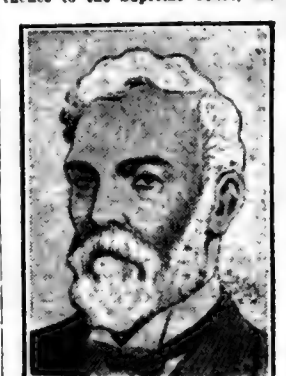
FIGHT FOR GOLD.

DUBLIN MAN WINS A FORTUNE.

EIGHT YEARS' LITIGATION.

The Supreme Court of the United States has awarded to Mr. Edward Corcoran, harness-maker, of Dublin, an estate worth at least £150,000, which was left by an Irish American named John Sullivan, who died at Seattle, U.S.A., in 1900. There were many claimants to the property, but the Court has now decided after eight years that the heirs are Mr. Corcoran and Miss Hannah Callaghan, Cork, first cousins of the deceased. Miss Callaghan, however, died three years ago, and the whole estate therefore falls to Mr. Corcoran. A claim by United States Senator Pile to a portion of the estate is also recognised. Miss Callaghan, who died while the litigation over the estate was in progress and without realising a penny of her cousin's riches, was an unassuming peasant living in Co. Cork, assuming peasant living in Co. Cork.

Backwards and Forwards. Sullivan's death in 1900 leaving no will brought about a legal battle, which had its inception in the Federal Court, went to the Circuit Court of Appeals, to the Supreme Court of the United States, back to the Superior Court of King County, thence to the Supreme Court, back



MR. EDWARD CORCORAN.

again to the Superior Court, and finally as a last resort to the Supreme Court of the States. The estate consists of the Sullivan Building and 169 acres of land near Ballard. There were many petitions from pretending heirs. Marie Carrau, a French tutor, filed a nuncupative will alleged to have been made by John Sullivan. Her story was supported by her sister and her brother-in-law.

French Tutor's Claim. According to the statement of Miss Carrau, Sullivan sought to learn French, and went to live at their home as a boarder and studied French under Marie's tuition. Sullivan, it was stated in the American Courts, became greatly attached to his tutor. This nuncupative will was later discredited, and pronounced by Judge Fraser "conceived in fraud and a plot of a crafty mind to secure possession of a valuable estate." Subsequent developments led to the sending of Mr. R. W. Prigmore, deputy prosecuting attorney, to Ireland in an effort to get evidence, with the result that Corcoran's claim has been upheld.

Topsham Sailing Club has elected the Hon. Lionel Walrond, M.P., as commodore.

FOREMAN AND GIRL.

STRANGE CHARGE OF PERJURY.

WHO WAS THE FATHER?

An unusual case was heard at Coventry, when Edith Alford, Barras Green, Stoke, was summoned on the information of Wilfred Herbert Hardacre, The Clyde, Highbridge, for "unlawfully, wickedly, and corruptly committing perjury."—Mr. S. H. Masser appeared to prosecute, and said that this was a serious charge against defendant, and arose out of an application on the part of Miss Alford for the affiliation of her child. That application was made in this court on Jan. 20 against the man Hardacre, and was dismissed. It was now alleged against the young woman that she not only committed perjury in the sense of stating what was untrue, but did so wilfully, intentionally, after due warning, with the object of obtaining an order of affiliation against defendant in that case—Hardacre. If he proved that, then he submitted that it would be the magistrates' duty to commit defendant to take her trial at the Assizes, whatever their sympathy might be with her owing to her age and other circumstances. This case had been taken after

Very Careful Consideration. Proceeding, Mr. Masser detailed the facts of the case, and said that in August, 1906, the man Hardacre was

employed as a foreman at the Ordnance Works, Coventry. The girl came to him and asked for employment there. Upon Hardacre asking particulars of her previous work she gave the explanation that she had to leave her previous employment on the ground of her having had a child. The child, in respect of which proceedings were taken in January last, was not the first which the young woman had had. The man Hardacre found the girl work, and later began walking out with Miss Alford, and Hardacre admitted intimacy with her. The alleged perjury was mainly in respect to defendant's evidence as to dates. The evidence which was said to be of a false nature included defendant's statement that Hardacre was the father of her child; that she stayed in Rugby 8 weeks; and that she came to Coventry in the middle of February, 1907. The definite allegation of perjury was in respect of her statement that Hardacre left Coventry for Glasgow on Feb. 23, and that on that occasion she saw him off. Hardacre would tell them that he left Coventry on Jan. 14, and that he went to Highbridge, in Somerset, on that date. Mr. Masser mentioned in the course of his long opening statement that Hardacre was

Co-Respondent in a Divorce Case, but proceedings against him were dismissed. Evidence was called for the prosecution, the witnesses including Mr. P. E. Wilks, Clerk to the Magistrates, who proved the evidence given by the young woman, the man Hardacre, and his mother. In his evidence, Wilfred H. Hardacre stated that he wrote to Miss Alford with reference to her coming to Scotland and being married. In consequence

of what came to his knowledge, however, he ceased to correspond with her. He denied being in Coventry on Feb. 23 and Feb. 26, and being intimate with the young woman on those dates. Defendant denied the allegation of perjury and was committed to the Assizes.

BOOKMAKERS AND THEIR TOUTS.

As a result of trying to avoid the new Act, Jas. Bartlett, of 16, Strutton-ground, and Jno. Howe, of Wood's-place, were charged yesterday at Westminster with street betting at Horseferry-rd., S.W. A similar charge was preferred against Edw. Guden, of Connel-rd., Fulham, described as a commission agent. Det.-Sgt. Watts, who arrested Bartlett and Howe on Friday, said that to evade the Act bookmakers now employed men to collect slips on commission.—Bartlett, a cripple, who stood in the dock on crutches, said he only started this week for a bookmaker. He got very little for what he did, and was "a regular cadger" for the bookmaker, who had all the profit.—Mr. Curtis Bennett said the bookmaker who made a "cadger" of him had better pay his fine.—Each of the defendants would be fined £10. The betting slips found he ordered to be destroyed.—Det.-Sgt. Davey asked for police costs incurred in hiring a conveyance to get near the defendant Guden. The detective added that the bookmaker now employed such an army of tout that the police had the greatest difficulty.—The magistrate said that, in addition to the £10 fine, he would order the payment of 7s. 6d. costs.

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